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***Carson Announces \$72,000 Grant For Hughes/McIntosh Counties
Funding Will Go To Fight Drugs and Aid In Prevention***

Washington, D.C. --

Oklahoma Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) today announced a \$72,897 Drug-Free Communities matching grant for the Rural Communities Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition located in Dustin, OK. The grant was one of 183 new grants totaling \$17.5 million awarded today to community anti-drug coalitions across the country.

"The \$72,000 Drug-Free Communities grant we are announcing today is great news for the anti-drug efforts in Hughes and McIntosh counties," said Congressman Carson. "The Rural Communities Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is doing crucial drug prevention work in our community and this additional federal grant money will help them expand their efforts and reach more of the children in Hughes and McIntosh counties."

Created under the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997, the Drug-Free Communities Program has earned strong bipartisan support from Congress. In December 2001, Congress passed and the President signed into law a five year extension of the Drug-Free Communities Act authorizing \$399 million in funds through the fiscal year of 2007.

"If we can prevent young people from using drugs through the age of 18, the chance of their using drugs as adults is very small," said Congressman Carson. "Prevention is the most effective way to protect our community from the heartache, addiction, and crime associated with illegal drug use. We have all heard the old saying before, 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.'"

For more information about the Drug-Free Communities program you can visit the various websites available at: www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov or www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org

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